

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAKAR 06343 071623Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 071333Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2811

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 6343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN, PFOR, AO, SG

SUBJ: SENGHOR PLANS CENTRAL AFRICAN TRIP ON ANGOLA AND ECOWAS

REF: LAGOS 10863 (NOTAL)

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PAGE 02 DAKAR 06343 071623Z

SUMMARY: ON CENTRAL AFRICAN TRIP BEGINNING NOV. 23, PRESIDENT

SENGHOR IS EXPECTED TO SEEK NEW CANDIDATES FOR ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) AND TO PURSUE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. SENEGAL IS DRAGGING ITS FEET ON RATIFYING ECOWAS TREATY, WHILE CAMPAIGNING TO INCLUDE FRANCOPHONE ZAIRE TO BALANCE NIGERIAN PREDOMINANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. GOS MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR WILL BE RETURNING FROM MIDDLE EAST NOV. 20 (DAKAR 6026), AND TOLD EMBOFF THAT SENGHOR WILL DEPART DAKAR ABOUT NOV. 23 ON CENTRAL AFRICAN TRIP. HE WILL VISIT ZAIRE AND GABON AS WELL AS CAR AND/OR CONGO/BRAZZAVILLE.

2. IN NOV. 6 MEETING WITH EMBOFFS, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS SALOUM KANDE SAID THAT PURPOSE OF CENTRAL AFRICAN TRIP WAS TO ENCOURAGE CANDIDACY OF COUNTRIES VISITED FOR INCLUSION IN ECOWAS. SENEGAL FAVORED EXPANDED COMMUNITY STRETCHING FROM NOUAKCHOTT TO KINSHASA. KANDE SAID PROTOCOLS WHICH WERE TO BE INTEGRAL PART OF LAGOS TREATY WOULD ENTAIL MUCH MORE WORK, AND THERE WOULD BE AMPLE TIME TO RATIFY AGREEMENT ONCE IT WAS FINALLY COMPLETED. ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICER HAS TOLD US THAT SENEGAL HAS NO INTENTION OF RATIFYING ECOWAS TREATY UNTIL ZAIRE IS INCLUDED TO COUNTERBALANCE ANGLOPHONE WEST AFRICAN STATES (I.E. TO COUNTERBALANCE NIGERIAN PREDOMINANCE). THESE COMMENTS TEND TO SUBSTANTIATE LAGOS PRESS REPORTS (REFTEL) ON SENGHOR'S MEETING WITH NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE SULEIMAN. SENEGALESE PRESS CARRIED NO NEWS ON SUBSTANCE OF THEIR MEETING.

3. EMBASSY IS POUCHING DAKAR A-120, WHICH REPORTS COMMENTS ON WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION MADE AT RECENT CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION CEREMONIES FOR NEW MALIAN AND GHANAIAAN AMBASSADORS. BOTH AMBASSADORS PRAISED ECOWAS, WITH MALIAN CALLING LAGOS TREATY "GREAT VICTORY" IN AFRICA'S FIGHT FOR ECONOMIC SURVIVAL. PRESIDENT SENGHOR RESPONDED TO EACH WITH BRIEF REFERENCE TO ECOWAS FOLLOWED BY DECLARATION OF IMPORTANCE OF EXPANDING WEST AFRICAN COMMUNITY TO EXTEND AS FAR AS ZAIRE.

4. KANDE SAID QUESTIONS OF SELECTING ECOWAS HEADQUARTERS AND SECRETARY GENERAL COULD NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL RATIFICATION COMPLETE. HOWEVER, HE SAID NIGERIA AND TOGO EXPECTED TO BE FAVORED AS REWARD
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PAGE 03 DAKAR 06343 071623Z

FOR INITIATING COMMUNITY. NIGERIA HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT EXPECTED TO HAVE HEADQUARTERS SITUATED IN LAGOS, WHILE TOGO WANTED ONE OF ITS NATIONALS AS SECRETARY GENERAL. KANDE REMARKED THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA OF TOGO HAD NOT EVEN BEEN SUBTLE IN MAKING DEMAND. OTHER COUNTRIES HAD DIFFERENT VIEW, HOWEVER, AND MATTER WAS FAR FROM SETTLED.

5. PRESIDENT SENGHOR EARLIER TOLD AMBASSADOR (DAKAR 5466) THAT HIS

NOVEMBER TRIP TO CENTRAL AFRICA WAS ALSO DESIGNED TO HELP FIND SOME SOLUTION FOR ANGOLA PROBLEM. (AT THAT TIME HE ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBLE YAOUNDE STOP). SENGHOR APPEARS INCREASINGLY TO BE MAKING EFFORT TO DIMINISH EXTERNAL SUPPORT FOR MPLA AND BOLSTER CHANCES FOR UNITA (OR FOR UNITA/FNLA COALITION). DEPENDING ON INTERVENING EVENTS, MEETINGS WITH MPLA'S BENEFACTORS IN CONGO AND FNLA'S BENEFACTORS IN ZAIRE COULD WELL BE PART OF THIS EFFORT.
AGGREY

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